



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, April 28, 2010

Electricity

Late-Season Snowstorm Knocks Out Power to 63,000 Customers in Quebec, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York by April 28

A late-season snowstorm dumped up to 2 feet of heavy, wet snow on Quebec, northern New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire, leaving approximately 33,000 Hydro-Quebec customers without power in Canada and 30,000 utility customers without power in the United States as of Wednesday morning. As of noon today, 17,822 customers remained without power in Vermont, including 8,314 Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) customers, 7,329 Central Vermont Public Service Corp. (CVPS) customers, 1,169 Green Mountain Power (GMP) customers, and 1,010 customers from other electric cooperatives across the state. In New York, 1,274 National Grid customers were without power and in New Hampshire, less than 1,000 Public Service Company of New Hampshire customers were without power.

<http://www.vtoutages.com/>

<https://www1.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/stormcenter/>

<http://www.psnh.com/outage/outagemap.aspx>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/28/AR2010042802078_pf.html

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Storm+leaves+over+without+power+across+Quebec/2960586/story.html#ixzz0mPJ7a317>

Dept. of Interior Approves Cape Wind Energy Project on Outer Continental Shelf off Massachusetts

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar April 28 approved the Cape Wind renewable energy project on federal submerged lands in Nantucket Sound, but will require the developer of the \$1 billion wind farm to agree to additional binding measures to minimize the potential adverse impacts of construction and operation of the facility. The Cape Wind project would be the first wind farm on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf. Because of visual effect and archeological concerns expressed during the consultations, Interior has required the developer to reduce the number of turbines from 170 to 130. The Cape Wind Associates, LLC facility would occupy a 25-square-mile section of Nantucket Sound and generate a maximum electric output of 468 MW with an average anticipated output of 182 MW.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/doinews/Secretary-Salazar-Announces-Approval-of-Cape-Wind-Energy-Project-on-Outer-Continental-Shelf-off-Massachusetts.cfm>

Generator Lockout Shuts Dominion's 917 MW North Anna Nuclear Unit 2 in Virginia April 27

At 4:47 p.m. EDT on April 27, Unit 2 experienced a generator lockout while returning from a refueling outage. The lockout caused a turbine trip, which resulted in a reactor trip when the reactor was at 74 percent power. The generator lockout occurred while automatic voltage regulator testing was being performed. Unit 2 is in a normal shutdown electrical lineup and there was no impact on Unit 1.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: U.S. Coast Guard to Begin Controlled Burn of Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill April 28

The response to BP/Transocean's Deepwater Horizon incident continues as the U.S. Coast Guard has scheduled a controlled, on-location burn to begin at approximately 11 a.m. CDT today—a strategy designed to minimize environmental risks by removing large quantities of oil in the Gulf of Mexico following the April 20 explosion. Workboats will consolidate oil into a fire resistant boom approximately 500 feet long. This oil will then be towed to a more remote area, where it will be ignited and burned in a controlled manner. The Minerals Management Service is in contact with the oil and gas operators in the sheen area to discuss any concerns with operations that may arise from their activities with the response efforts underway. Currently, no production has been curtailed as a result of the response activities. These efforts are happening concurrently with BP/Transocean's continued efforts to stop the crude that is still leaking from the well.

Location of Oil Sheen: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doc/2931/532235/>

USCG Press Release: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doc/2931/532827/>

Federal Government Launches Full Investigation of Deepwater Horizon Incident in Gulf of Mexico

On April 27 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Interior (DOI) laid out the next steps for the investigation that is underway into the causes of the April 20 explosion that left 11 workers missing, three critically injured, and an ongoing oil spill that the responsible party and federal agencies are working to contain and clean up. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) share jurisdiction for the investigation. The MMS is responsible for investigating incidents related to systems associated with exploration, drilling, completion, work-over, production, pipeline, and decommissioning operations for hydrocarbons and other minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf. The USCG investigates maritime industry deaths, injuries, property loss, and environmental damage to determine the causes of accidents.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1272395702575.shtm

Update: Shell Resumes Normal Operations at 75,000 b/d Nakika Crude Oil Pipeline and Platform in U.S. Gulf April 24

The pipeline and platform resumed normal operations after they were briefly closed last week for precautionary reasons, a Shell spokesman said April 27. The Nakika pipeline, which supplies crude to Motiva's Norco, Louisiana refinery, was shut from April 22-24 due to its proximity to the Transocean Horizon platform, which exploded and sank last week.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2725289620100427?type=marketsNews>

Truck Explosion Injures Eight at Suncor's 130,000 b/d East Montreal, Quebec Refinery April 27

The truck exploded at the refinery's loading terminal at about 4:45 p.m. EDT and injured eight people but had no affect on refinery operations. Police and firefighters responded at the scene and extinguished the fire. The cause of the blast remains unknown.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2712772520100427?type=marketsNews>

FCCU Shut at Sunoco's 335,000 b/d Philadelphia Refinery April 27

The fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) was unexpectedly shut down late April 27 after a wet gas compressor shut down for unknown reasons. According to a filing with city environmental regulators, the company prepared to restart the unit at 3:30 a.m. EDT April 28.

Reuters, 11:45 April 28, 2010

FCCU Wet Gas Compressor Trips at Valero's 289,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 27

The wet gas compressor on the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU)-1241 tripped for approximately 11 minutes causing unauthorized flaring. The compressor was restarted with no additional problems.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138976>

Exchanger Leak Shuts Kerosene Hydrofiner at Exxon Mobil's 567,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery April 27

Exchanger E904B developed a leak on the shell. Operations put a water spray on the leak, shutdown the unit, and depressurized the exchanger. There was no impact on refinery production and all customer needs were met.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138990>

Pinhole Leaks Shut Aromatics Unit at Shell Oil's 330,000 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery April 27

Operators discovered two pinhole leaks in the liquid benzene outlet piping connecting the Benzene Accumulator to the reflux pump in the Aromatics Concentrate Unit (ACU). The ACU was shut down so that the leaks could be repaired.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138988>

Compressor Trips on Process Unit at Exxon Mobil's 192,500 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery

A refinery spokesman said the refinery is fully operations and all customers needs are being met.

Bloomberg News, 14:06 GMT, April 28, 2010

Natural Gas

Recompressor Trip Shuts Amine Plant and AGI System at Waha Gas Processing Plant in Texas April 27

The No. 3 Recompressor tripped due to faulty fuel level transmitter. Because gas could not be brought into the plant from the field, the amine plant and the Acid Gas Injection (AGI) system had to be shut down. The AGI system was placed back into service as soon as the transmitter was cleaned and the Recompressor was restarted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138971>

Other News

MSHA Orders Workers Out of Three Massey Mines After Surprise Inspections

The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) April 28 announced that MSHA inspectors responded to three separate anonymous complaints about hazardous conditions at three coal mines owned by Massey Energy Co. Following each investigation, MSHA ordered the withdrawal of miners from designated areas of those mines and issued multiple citations for serious violations at Spartan Mining Co.'s Road Fork #51 Mine in Wyoming County, West Virginia.; Inman Energy's Randolph Mine in Boone County, W.Va.; and Independence Coal Co.'s Cook Mine in Boone County, West Virginia. In an effort to make sure the conditions found during the surprise inspections were not tampered with, MSHA inspectors assumed control of company phone lines at two of the three mines to prevent mine employees from alerting their colleagues underground that MSHA inspectors were on site.

<http://www.msha.gov/Media/PRESS/2010/NR100427.asp>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 28, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	82.67	82.43	48.58
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.18	4.18	3.19

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

PG&E Details Technical Problems Affecting Thousands of ‘SmartMeters’

http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/cj_14963541?source=rss&nclink_check=1

Three Arrested for Stealing Parts from Chevron’s Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery and Trading Them for Drugs

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/metropolitan/6977578.html>

Update: Construction on Piedmont Natural Gas Pipeline in North Carolina to Begin Early 2011

<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20100427/ARTICLES/100429689?Title=Construction-on-natural-gas-pipeline-to-begin-next-year>

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov